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Nurses' Home committee, Women's Board, pp.131

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NURSES' HOME COMMITTEE / SCHOOL OF NURSING DEPARTMENT WOMEN'S BOARD, JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Throughout its history, the School of Nursing enjoyed the support and assistance of other components of the Jefferson community. This spirit of helpfulness found full expression in the activities of the Nurses' Home Committee of the Women's Board of Jefferson Medical College Hospital. The kindness and generosity of the committee members greatly enriched the lives of the student nurses in making a "home away from home" for them.

The Nurses' Home Committee "adopted" the School when it was barely out of its infancy. Annual reports from the early 1900's mention gifts of reading lamps, newspapers, furnishings, and decorations. Summertime treats included ice cream parties, outings to the seashore and country, and the purchase of hammocks for backyard relaxation. A special room was set aside in the hospital for ailing student nurses, and members of the committee visited them faithfully with flowers and books in hand to cheer them up.

One of the principal functions of the committee, that of furnishing and improving the older nurses' homes (e.g., Spruce Street), became outdated with the opening of the new Martin Residence building in 1959. Although the committee continued to provide such amenities as Christmas and Easter decorations, magazine subscriptions, theatre tickets, and other special favors, it chose to concentrate its attention on contributing to the support of the School's curriculum and its physical facilities. This decision prompted a name change to the School of Nursing Department of the Women's Board.

The switch in identity, however, made no difference in the generous spirit that had motivated the members of the former Nurses' Home Committee as far as the welfare of the School was concerned. The new School of Nursing Department provided books for the faculty library, funds for in-service education, money for audiovisual aid materials, supplemental contributions to the purchase of closed-circuit TV equipment, and other means of support for the School right up to the time of its closing.

Since the object of its loyalty and devotion for so many years was passing from the scene, the School of Nursing Department, in early 1982, was renamed the Burt-Melville Department of the Women's Board of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and transferred its interests to the Rehabilitation Department of the hospital. The dual name was derived from: 1) Charlotte (Moore) Burt, '29, a very dedicated Committee member and long-time member of the Women's Board; and 2) Clara Melville, '10, Director of the School of Nursing from 1915-1937.